

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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R 211323Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2279

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG ELAB

SUBJECT: EFL ELECTIONS FOR SUMMER 1976

1. DIRECTOR OF EGYPTIAN FEDERATION OF LABOR (EFL) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE GAMAL EMAM INFORMED EMBOFFS APRIL 19 THAT GOE HAD DECIDED TO APPROVE ELECTIONS WITHIN EFL FOR LATE JULY-EARLY AUGUST 1976 PERIOD. EMAMA STATED THAT NORMAL TIME FRAME OF TWO MONTHS FOR THREE-TIER EFL ELECTIONS TO BE TELESKOPED THIS YEAR IN VIEW OF ELECTIONS FOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER.

2. EMAM OPINED THAT GOE HAD DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH EFL ELECTIONS, RATHER THAN TO POSTPONE THEM UNTIL MID-1977 (PER REFTTEL) APPARENTLY BECAUSE GOVERNMENT FEELS THAT INJECTION OF ASU "ORGANIZATIONS" INTO ELECTION PROCESS CAN MAINTAIN CENTRIST CONTROL OVER EFL. EMAM NOTED THAT, CONTRARY TO ASU REGULATIONS, VARIOUS EGYPTIAN UNIONS HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO ADHERE TO GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ARAB SOCIALIST "ORGANIZATION"

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ON MASSE, RATHER THAN AS INDIVIDUALS (HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED

RAILWAY WORKERS UNION AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNION).
EVEN LEADERSHIP OF MORE RADICAL-MINDED TEXTILE WORKERS UNION
HAD JOINED ASU CENTRIST ORGANIZATION AS INDIVIDUALS ALTHOUGH THEY
LEFT MEMBERS FREE TO DECIDE ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONAL
AFFILIATION.

3. EMAM STATED THAT GOE APPARENTLY HAD YET TO DECIDE
WHETHER TO INJECT ISSUE OF ASU "ORGANIZATION" AFFILIATION
OFFICIALLY INTO EFL ELECTIONS OR TO HAVE EACH CANDIDATE
MERELY STATE INFORMALLY TO WHICH ASU GROUP HE BELONGED.
EMAM IMPLIED THAT MAJORITY OF CANDIDATES FOR EFL LEADERSHIP
POSITIONS WOULD RALLY TO CENTRIST "ORGANIZATION" LED BY PM
SALIM, AS GOE SUPPORT COULD PLAY CRUCIAL ROLE IN SUCCESS
OR FAILURE OF CANDIDATES.

4. COMMENT: GOE APPEARS TO BE TAKING RISK IN CONDUCTING
EFL ELECTIONS ALONG ASU "ORGANIZATION" LINES. LEFTIST
PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST UNIONIST "ORGANIZATION" OF KHALID
MUHYI AL-DIN MAY WELL DECIDE TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT AMONG
WORKERS, WHO MAJOR CONSTITUENCY OF LEFT, IN ORDER TO
REDUCE PREPONDERANCE OF SALIM'S "ORGANIZATION" AND TO
UNDERLINE OPPOSITION TO SADAT REGIME. DEGREE OF
LEFTIST SUCCESS WILL PROBABLY REFLECT EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC
SITUATION BY MID-SUMMER. GOE (OR AT LEAST EMAM)
APPEARS TO BELIEVE CANDIDATES LOYAL TO, OR AT LEAST
MEMBERS OF, ARAB SOCIALIST "ORGANIZATION" LIKELY
PREDOMINATE IN NEW EFL LEADERSHIP.
EILTS

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